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## Report on the Detroit Convention

Mariological Society of America

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## REPORT ON THE DETROIT CONVENTION

The Eleventh Annual Convention of The Mariological Society of America was held in Detroit, Michigan, on Monday and Tuesday, January 4 and 5, 1960, under the gracious auspices of His Excellency, the Most Reverend John F. Dearden, D.D., Archbishop of Detroit. The centrally-located Sheraton-Cadillac Hotel was selected as the headquarters of the two-day meeting. It was estimated that over one hundred and twenty delegates attended, a larger number than at any of our previous meetings.

The registration of guests being completed, the Convention opened promptly at ten o'clock in the morning with the customary introductory remarks by the President of the Society, the Rev. Eamon R. Carroll, O.Carm., of Washington, D. C. This was followed by an "official welcome" extended to the delegates by His Excellency, the Most Reverend John F. Dearden, Archbishop of Detroit. His Excellency paid tribute to the organization saying that, while it was still small in membership, nevertheless the results of its work reach far beyond its members. He urged his audience to "have an eye for substance" in its theological study concerning the Mother of God, and to avoid making of Mariology "a sterile and abstruse science."

Having thanked Archbishop Dearden for his warm welcome and sound advice, the President called upon the Rev. Juniper B. Carol, O.F.M., Secretary of the Society, to make a few announcements relative to registration, the celebration of Holy Mass during the Convention, and the special meeting of the Board of Directors scheduled for that afternoon.

At approximately 10:30, the keynote speaker of the Convention, Father Eric May, O.F.M.Cap., of Garrison, N. Y., presented his paper entitled *The Problems of a Biblical Mariology*. He reviewed, among other things, the various attitudes

of Catholic scholars regarding the use of Sacred Scripture in Mariology, the unprecedented advance in modern biblical research, and the norms provided by the ecclesiastical magisterium for a sound interpretation of biblical passages. Revealing a fine and wholesome Catholic instinct, the distinguished professor warned against too great a fear of non-Catholic sensitivities, and likewise against a too "scientific" approach as regards the application of certain scriptural texts to Our Blessed Lady. The discussion, which was bound to be most stimulating, was led by Father Dominic J. Unger, O.F.M.Cap., who, incidentally, was happy to endorse wholeheartedly the speaker's views on these matters.

During the luncheon which followed at 12:15 in the afternoon, the President publicly presented the Secretary, Father Juniper Carol, with a check for \$1,000.00 on behalf of the Mariological Society as an advanced gift on the occasion of his forthcoming Sacerdotal Silver Jubilee to be celebrated on February 20. Father Carol, visibly moved, expressed his profound gratitude to the Society and particularly to Bishop John J. Wright, its Episcopal Chairman, for the extraordinary donation, and assured the guests that the money would be used to enhance his Marian Library in Paterson, N. J.

At 2:30 in the afternoon the delegates again gathered in the spacious *Founders Room* of the hotel for the second general assembly which began with the election of new officers. The Very Rev. Msgr. Joseph Gallo, acting Chairman of the Nominating Committee, submitted the following slate: for President, the Rev. Walter J. Burghardt, S.J., of Woodstock, Md.; for Vice-President, the Very Rev. Msgr. George W. Shea, of Darlington, N. J.; for Secretary and Treasurer, the incumbents, i.e., the Rev. Juniper B. Carol, O.F.M., of Paterson, N. J., and the Rev. J. Armand Robichaud, S.M., of Washington, D. C., respectively; for the Board of Directors: the Rev. Eamon R. Carroll, O.Carm., of Washington, D.C., and

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the Rev. Francis Costa, S.S.S., of Cleveland, Ohio. A vote was taken, and the slate received the unanimous approval of the delegates.

The matter of the election being concluded, the guests heard the next scheduled speaker, the Rev. Richard Kugelman, C.P., of Union City, N. J., on *The Object of Mary's Consent at the Annunciation*. He directed most of his attention to the much-discussed problem of Our Lady's knowledge of her Son's messiahship and divinity at the time of the Angel's message. After a minute analysis of the Lucan pericope itself and its significant allusions to the Old Testament, plus a rapid glance at the teaching of recent Popes, Father Kugelman concluded that Our Lady *was* aware of the fact that her Son was the promised Messiah and a divine Being. He added, however (following René Laurentin), that this initial knowledge on Mary's part was more implicit than explicit, more real than notional, more intuitive than reasoned. The exchange of views which followed Father Kugelman's scholarly dissertation was conducted by the Rev. James C. Turro, professor of Sacred Scripture at the Seminary of the Immaculate Conception in Darlington, N. J.

At this time the printed program called for a lecture on *The Theology of the Magnificat* by the Rev. Lawrence C. Dannemiller, S.S., of Baltimore, Md. Shortly before the meeting, however, Father Dannemiller informed the Secretary that, owing to unforeseen circumstances, it had not been possible for him to finish his paper. In view of this regrettable development, it was decided to hold the customary meeting of the Board of Directors at this time, thus bringing the first day of the Convention to a close.

On Tuesday morning at 10 o'clock, the newly-elected President, Father Walter J. Burghardt, S.J., opened the general session by introducing the Rev. Stephen Hartdegen, O.F.M., of Washington, D. C., whose paper dealt with the

*Marian Significance of Cana.* The words of Christ to His Mother on the occasion of the wedding feast—the speaker contended—are not to be understood as a rebuke or reprimand; the fact that the requested miracle immediately followed is an implicit indication that the Savior regarded favorably His Mother's solicitude on behalf of the bridal pair. The "hour" of Christ (*Jn.* 2, 4) refers, not specifically to the time of His passion, as many interpreters wish, but rather (though not exclusively) to the beginning of His public ministry. Father Alexander Di Lella, O.F.M., in charge of the discussion, frankly praised his confrere's erudite paper, while expressing disagreement on some minor points.

The title of the next lecture was: *Some Difficult Marian Passages in the Gospels*, and it was given, after a brief recess, by the Very Rev. Roger Mercurio, C.P., Rector of the Passionist Seminary in Louisville, Ky. The passages referred to are found in *Mk.* 3, 31-35; *Mt.* 12, 46-50; *Lk.* 8, 19-21, and 11, 27-28. The speaker undertook an extensive study of the sources, form-criticism, and literary genesis of these passages, and attempted to discover the real significance of each as regards Our Lady. His conclusion was that Our Lord's words, in their historical setting, far from being a disparagement of His Mother, actually constituted a hymn of praise to her. The fruitful discussion to which Father Mercurio's lecture gave rise, was ably conducted by the noted biblical scholar, Father Barnabas M. Ahern, C.P.

The afternoon session began promptly at 2 o'clock. At this time the Rev. Christian P. Ceroke, O.Carm., of Washington, D. C., spoke to us on the much-disputed words of Christ on the cross, "*Behold thy Mother.*" After reviewing the various interpretations advanced by exegetes, the learned Carmelite endeavored to show that the words in question refer to Our Lady's spiritual motherhood of the faithful as represented in the beloved disciple, and indeed in the literal

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sense. This he did by analyzing the text itself, the context, and particularly the profound meaning of the word "woman" within the framework of Johannine theology. A few objections against this view were brought up by some of the delegates, but they were answered quite satisfactorily by the speaker. The discussion leader was the Rev. Neal M. Flanagan, O.S.M., of Lake Bluff, Illinois.

The business meeting scheduled for 3 o'clock was called to order by the President, Father Burghardt. After a brief financial report by Father Robichaud, Treasurer of the Society, the Secretary, Father Juniper, informed the guests that the 1961 Convention would be held in the city of Pittsburgh, Pa., on Monday and Tuesday, January 2 and 3, under the gracious auspices of His Excellency, the Most Reverend John J. Wright, D.D., Bishop of Pittsburgh and Episcopal Chairman of the Society. The general theme of the meeting will be: *Our Lady in the Old Testament*. Father Carol also read the names of new applicants for membership in the Society, and upon a duly seconded motion from the floor, all were officially accepted. Present membership, he said, reached a total of 365, of which 298 are active members, and 67 associate. The Secretary likewise read the results of a recent survey concerning the date of the annual meeting. The vast majority of members, he disclosed, favor the first week in January, i.e., the same date selected in previous years. Finally, Father Carol informed the delegates that, at his request, the Board of Directors had authorized the drafting of a petition to the forthcoming Ecumenical Council concerning Mary's Coredemption. The text of the petition, composed by himself, would be circulated among the members to give them an opportunity to express their personal views on the matter. When and if approved by the majority, the petition will be submitted to the Fathers of the Council by Bishop Wright on behalf of The Mariological Society of America.

Following the Secretary's report, the President, Father Burghardt, announced that the winner of the Seminarians' Contest in 1959 was Brother Lawrence J. Cada, S.M. (Marianist), now a student of Theology at the Catholic University of America. The title of his contribution: *A Fundamental Mariological Principle According to John Duns Scotus*. The Secretary was advised to send the winner a check for \$100.00 on behalf of the Society.

Father Burghardt then read the following citation for the Mariological Award of the year:

#### THE MARIOLOGICAL AWARD FOR 1959

##### *Citation*

The annual award conferred by the Mariological Society on one of its active members is a witness to eminence achieved in the domain of Marian scholarship. The committee entrusted with the choice of a candidate to be honored in 1959 has judged that the most suitable recipient of the award is the Reverend Eamon Richard Carroll, O.Carm.

After elementary studies in Chicago, Illinois, his native city, Father Carroll continued his education at Mount Carmel College, Niagara Falls, Ontario. He entered the Order of Carmelites of the Ancient Observance in 1939. On the completion of his course in theology at Whitefriars Hall, Washington, D. C., he was ordained to the priesthood in Chicago in 1946, and from 1947 to 1949 taught at Mount Carmel High School in that city.

In recognition of his outstanding talent, Father Carroll's religious superiors sent him to the Pontifical Gregorian University, Rome, for advanced work in theology, with Mariology as the field of concentration. On receipt of the degree of doctor in sacred theology in 1951, he was appointed professor of Mariology at the International Carmelite College of St. Albert in the Eternal City, where he was also in charge of the Mariological department of the Institute for Carmelite Studies, and served as chairman of the Carmelite section during the International Mariological Congress

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held in Rome in 1954. Father Carroll's eager quest for wisdom led him to further studies at Loyola University in Chicago, the University of Chicago, the Catholic University of America, and the Pontifical Oriental Institute in Rome.

He was summoned back to the United States in 1955 and assigned to teach dogmatic theology at Whitefriars Hall, Washington, D. C. In 1956 he was named research associate to the faculty of the School of Sacred Theology at the Catholic University of America, and the following year was appointed first director of the new Catholic University summer program in Mariology. In the fall of 1957 he was elevated to the rank of Assistant Professor in the School of Sacred Theology.

When the Reverend Bernard Le Frois, S.V.D., resigned his presidency of the Mariological Society to undertake a missionary career in the Philippines, Father Carroll was elected to complete the term of office, and was later re-elected for a two-year period, 1958-1960. He has read two excellent papers at annual conventions of the Mariological Society.

Father Carroll was secretary of the United States committee at the Mariological Congress held at Lourdes in September, 1958, where he also presented a paper on "Our Lady and Marian Congresses." His many publications have appeared in the three-volume set, *Mariology*, edited by J. B. Carol, O.F.M., *Queen of the Universe*, edited by S. Matthews, S.M., *Carmelus*, *American Ecclesiastical Review*, *The Sword*, and *MARIAN STUDIES*. He has exploited his gift for clear presentation in more popular periodicals, such as *Mary*, *The Marianist*, *Ave Maria*, *The Scapular*, *Marian Reprints*, *Marie*, *The Pope Speaks*, and *Our Lady's Digest*, of which he is a contributing editor.

By bestowing this award on Father Carroll, the Mariological Society expresses its high appreciation of his accomplishments, as well as its confidence that he will continue his scholarly activities in promoting knowledge and love of Our Lady.

Accepting the check for \$100.00 from the President, Father Carroll addressed the delegates briefly, conveying his deep appreciation to the Society for the high distinction con-



ferred on him. Whereupon, Father Burghardt proceeded to express his personal gratitude, as well as that of the organization, to His Excellency, the Most Reverend John F. Dearden, D.D., Archbishop of Detroit, for the gracious invitation extended to the Society to hold its 1959 Convention under his auspices, and for presiding over the first general assembly. The President likewise singled out the following as deserving of a special word of thanks: His Excellency, the Most Rev. John J. Wright, D.D., Bishop of Pittsburgh, and Episcopal Chairman of the Society, for his continued substantial support of the organization; the Rev. Arthur Weiler, C.S.B., Sister Mary Claudia, and Mr. John R. Gariepy, of the Program Committee, for their valuable assistance in making the proper arrangements for the meeting (publicity, setting up portable altars, and various other items); the Very Rev. Stanley Matuszewski, M.S., Editor of *Our Lady's Digest*, for his many generous donations to the Society; the various speakers and discussion leaders, for their scholarly lectures and discussions; the retiring President and other officers and members of the Board, for their inspiration and disinterested co-operation; and the management of the Sheraton-Cadillac Hotel, for its efficient and friendly services.

Upon a duly seconded motion, the meeting was adjourned by the President with an appropriate prayer at approximately 3:30 P. M.